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Note by the Secretary-General

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I. International Research Centre for Environmental Structures "Pio Manzù"

(General; 2005)

I. Introduction

The International Research Centre for Environmental Structures "Pio Manzù" (the Pio Manzù Centre), founded in 1969 by a group of scholars, operates as an institute for the in-depth study of the main economic and scientific aspects of the relationship between man and his environment. The Centre has set up its own network of specialists, a pool of researchers operating in Italy, Germany, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Bologna, London, Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Boston and Moscow). As a non-profit-making organization, the efforts of the Centre today are mainly targeted at making a major contribution towards the up-to-date, functional study of the interactions between technological and industrial development and the human and cultural environment, and the impact that interaction creates. The Centre's primary objective is to design and conduct global investigations into specific issues, drawing upon a broad range of expertise, which it seeks to make available to those in the public, private and non-profit sectors whose task it is to devise prompt, effective action strategies. The main aims of the Centre are thus to act as a promoter of specific research projects, through synergistic collaboration between researchers of different cultural and professional backgrounds; and to act as a link between the world of research and the practical socio-political decision makers providing a forum for a free and frank exchange of views and expertise on both sides.

Over the years the Centre has designed and conducted studies of major innovative significance in the fields of scientific and technological research. The true mission of the Pio Manzù Centre stems from cultural exchanges and confrontation and, through the constant quest for common interdisciplinary language across a whole range of spheres of interest, seeks above all to establish the centrality of the human being, both in terms of his creative and spiritual capabilities and in the setting of a meaningful relationship with nature and the environment. The Centre thus offers public and private decision-making centres a complex, well-differentiated framework of collaboration and integration, which is greatly appreciated by a highly authoritative international clientele. Every year, the work of the analysis and design conducted by the Centre's own research staff, with invaluable contributions from scholars and researchers from numerous academic institutions, is presented at the Pio Manzù International Conference.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The thirty-first International Conference was organized by the Pio Manzù Centre in Rimini, Italy, in October 2005 under the headline "The Soul of the Empire". The Conference had the theme "The troubled horizon of oil: sustainability or apocalypse soon?". Under this focus on the uncertainty of the world energy situation, the following issues were discussed: how to cope with the impact of the price of oil at

its peak; how to cope with the impact of the escalation of the price of oil on economic growth and financial flows in the developing countries and particularly in the least developed countries; how to cope with destabilizing financial flows; how to encourage the preservation of resources; and how to promote the development of alternative fuels for transportation.

The thirty-second International Conference was organized by the Pio Manzù Centre in Rimini, Italy, in October 2006 under the headline "Life in the Balance". The Conference had the theme "A world on edge: the need for balanced development and the common cause of responsibility". The central theme of the Conference focused on the evolution and conditions of life on the planet. There are profound limitations in the present globalized economic system that makes a radical change of direction mandatory. For the present generations and those to come, globalization will need to generate benefits on the basis of a global ethical perspective and a common cause of responsibility.

The thirty-third International Conference was organized by the Pio Manzù Centre in Rimini, Italy, in October 2007 under the headline "The Flight of the Hummingbird". The Conference had the theme "The future of children in the mind and society of the world", focusing on the condition of children worldwide. The Conference shed light on activities being carried out in a context that lacks overall policies and long-term planning, and with limited resources. The debate covered the crucial issues addressed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and put forward proposals for actions to protect children's rights. Four workshops covering a wide range of subjects (the rights of the child concerning hunger and education; the protection of children from all forms of violence, child labour, sexual slavery and enforced military service) were held.

The thirty-fourth International Conference was organized by the Pio Manzù Centre in Rimini, Italy, in October 2008 under the headline "Penia and Poros". The Conference had the theme "Conscience of prosperity for a new moral economy", and offered scenarios of hope and positive planning for the third millennium, especially concerning poverty in the context of unequal development. The Centre stressed the need for a new balance between markets and democracy, and for a new order of prosperity. The first workshop focused on the fight against extreme poverty and the ability to create effective, sustainable development conditions. The immediate goal for rich countries is to devote 0.7 per cent of their national income to international aid. Inequalities can be reduced by policies favouring greater accessibility of the poor to health care, education, employment, capital and infrastructures. Today, flexibility of labour is generally regarded as the only possible response to the increasingly sharp edged world competitiveness, but the demand for an ever increasing flexibility of employment has contributed to a precarious insecurity for many. Proposals were put forward to curb the unwanted effects of flexibility by creating new rights or reinterpreting existing ones so as to safeguard job-related professional skills and offer adequate social protection to encourage mobility.

A. Participation in the forums of the United Nations

The Pio Manzù Centre did not participate in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because scarce funds and the many

commitments of its staff made attendance at international meetings very difficult. Nevertheless, the Centre kept itself apprised of the agenda of the United Nations on all matters of socio-economic development through ongoing contacts with the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and representatives of the United Nations participating in international conferences.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Pio Manzù Centre is committed to contributing to the work of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations by following the United Nations development agenda and by creating public awareness. If the Millennium Development Goals are a test of political will to build stronger partnerships, the Pio Manzù International Conferences act as a channel for exchange of information to better develop these partnerships. During this reporting period, the Pio Manzù Centre addressed multiple world crises that were included in the agenda of the Economic and Social Council and formed part of the follow-up to global conferences and summits of the United Nations.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In 2005 and 2006, the Pio Manzù Centre's International Conferences were extremely relevant to the future of the environment, climate change, biodiversity and the sustainable development of the planet. Several debates covered Goal 7, target 9 and reached indicator 27 (energy use). The 2007 Conference was inspired by the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children adopted by the World Summit for Children. Significant contributions were made to the debate on how to combat famine and build up local capacity in the production of foodstuffs. The Conference went on to consider the right of children to education, and successful projects to provide education in poor areas were presented, with particular attention to projects able to take children and adolescents off the streets. The Centre also called for urgent action to protect children from exploitation in three areas: child labour, sexual slavery and enforced military service. Suggestions were made regarding ways to lessen the hardship of orphaned and exploited children and to reduce and prevent childhood disabilities and illnesses.

In confronting the global financial crisis, the 2008 International Conference focused on the eight Millennium Development Goals as being interrelated and pointed out that if poverty was not put as top priority, peace would not be secured. Moreover, these four International Conferences, by recognizing obstacles to development, facilitated the ongoing substantive dialogues on international issues constituting long-term challenges, between eminent NGOs, Governments and representatives of the private sector. The contribution of the Centre to the work of the Economic and Social Council lies in the fact that the Centre takes up the most pressing issues related to global threats and identifies risks and opportunities through the outcome of its international conferences. The way in which the Pio Manzù Centre, which is considered to be an international think tank, tackles the issues and presents them to the world for action is also a true involvement in the work of the Council.

2. International Save the Children Alliance

(General; 1993)

I. Introduction

The International Save the Children Alliance is a global network of 29 national organizations with a global staff of more than 14,000, working together in more than 120 countries to ensure children's well-being. From emergency relief to long-term development, the Alliance helps children to achieve a happy, healthy and secure childhood. It listens to children, involves children and ensures their views are taken into account. The Alliance secures and protects children's rights: to food, shelter, health care, education and freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, the Alliance participated in the Security Council open debates on protection of civilians and submitted summary information to Member States on children's needs in conflict situations, particularly in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nepal. In the Security Council open debates on children and armed conflict in July and November 2006, and in February and July 2008, the Alliance presented key advocacy to Member States (see also below). The Alliance attended meetings of the United Nations Children's Fund Executive Board in the period 2005 to 2008 and made statements with recommendations on the Millennium Development Goals related to education and protection of and violence against children. At the meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly in the period 2005 to 2008, the supported inclusion of child protection in resolutions on the rights of the child by disseminating the World Report on Violence against Children to Member States in 2006, successfully advocating in 2007 for the creation of a new post for a Special Representative on Violence against Children, and advocating in 2008 for the inclusion of child labour issues in the resolution. At a meeting of the Security Council on 28 November 2006, The District Manager of Save the Children Uganda drew attention to the plight of millions of children lacking vital assistance and protection, notably girls associated with armed forces. At the commemorative high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, in December 2007, the Alliance delivered a statement highlighting education, child survival, child participation and violence against children. Working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Alliance helped to prepare children from 63 countries to engage with Government officials in the Children's Forum. The Alliance was among the first child rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to submit country-specific information to the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council. At the United Nations General Assembly thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals in April 2008, the Chief Executive Officer of Save the Children United States of America participated in the round table on education and distributed briefing notes on the Goals. At the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2008, the Alliance participated in events focused on child survival and education. In April

2008, the Alliance hosted a round table discussion in New York on the theme "Where peace begins" for Member States and United Nations representatives focusing on the role of education in promoting peace and stability.

A. Cooperation with the United Nations bodies

As part of the NGO Advisory Council to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, the Alliance contributes to the Special Representative's objectives through extensive work with communities, Governments, international authorities and children to ensure children's protection. This work covers abuse and exploitation of minors through child labour, trafficking, sexual abuse, the use of girls and boys by armed groups, and physical humiliating punishment at home, in school or in institutions. The "Rewrite the Future" campaign, reaching more than 12 million children, targets children in conflict areas who are vulnerable to the effects of armed conflict. From 2004 to 2006, the Alliance participated in the United Nations study on violence against children. In partnership with UNICEF, the Alliance organized nine regional consultations which set up the preparatory process and allowed the inclusion of children's voices and experiences in the study. It organized the child friendly launch of the World Report on Violence against Children in 2006. The Alliance also provided substantial input into the *Machel Study 10-Year Strategic Review: Children and Conflict in a Changing World* (2009).

The Alliance participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee process leading up to the establishment of the United Nations global education cluster and was selected to co-lead the cluster with UNICEF (2007). It has acted as a prominent member of the Child Protection Working Group (child protection sub-cluster) since 2005. The Alliance has helped to drive education strategy for the Global Humanitarian Platform, a coalition of United Nations entities, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and 40 NGOs (2007). In 2007, the Alliance collaborated with UNICEF and the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations to organize a panel event at the United Nations on education in emergencies. In 2008, it organized a side event to share experiences on, root causes for and remedies to child labour, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization and the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Italy. The Alliance shared experiences and key concerns and hosted visits of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education in his preparation of a report on education in emergencies. Similarly, it shared experiences with the Committee on the Rights of the Child before and after the general discussion of the Committee in 2008.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Alliance has carried out activities related to implementation on the Millennium Development Goals as follows:

Goal 1: Save the Children is prioritizing its nutrition and livelihoods programmes in 22 countries. In Angola, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Sierra Leone and South-East Europe, these programmes have improved local capacity, analysed budgets and lobbied for greater Government expenditure for children. In the short term, it delivers emergency food or cash grants to save children's lives. Save the Children's lobbying

helped shift the World Food Programme strategy for 2008-2011 from the delivery of food aid to broader food assistance, including cash grants and other safety nets.

Goal 2: Since 2005, Save the Children's global "Rewrite the Future" campaign has given over 10 million children affected by conflict a decent quality of education. It also helped more than 1 million children enrol in school. In 2008, Save the Children's advocacy contributed to the decision by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to hold its day of general discussions on education in emergencies, resulting in a number of important recommendations. Save the Children and UNICEF jointly lead the global education cluster.

Goal 4: In 2008, Save the Children published the first Child Development Index, monitoring children's health and well-being in 137 counties, a vital tool for policymakers. In 40 countries, Save the Children's community-based health and nutrition programmes ensure access for families to effective health care. For example, in Malawi health-care workers were introduced to "kangaroo mother care", a low-cost health-care practice to save the lives of premature babies. Also, in Pakistan Save the Children showed simple measures in the home can reduce infant deaths by 15 per cent.

Goal 5: Save the Children's Saving Newborn Lives programme has reached more than 20 million women and babies since 2000 by training community health workers to help women remain healthy during pregnancy, assist during childbirth and encourage breastfeeding. Save the Children releases an annual publication, *State of the World's Mothers*, documenting maternal health worldwide.

Goal 6: Save the Children is persuading global funders of AIDS initiatives to increase investments in preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission and treating infected children. It is also continuing health education, reproductive health-care and support programmes. Save the Children involves individuals with HIV in its prevention and advocacy work to increase effectiveness and minimize stigma. Save the Children supporters marched in Dakar to draw attention to the AIDS pandemic and urge Western donors to fulfil funding pledges. Also, through Save the Children's support, 220 adolescents in Brazil monitored local government HIV policies.

C. Activities in support of global principles

In 2007, the Alliance initiated Child Awareness Day in Spain, where young people can express their concerns about the future. In 2008, the Alliance helped to develop policies and frameworks to protect children in Colombia, India, Mongolia, Rwanda and South-East European countries. Save the Children currently supports more than 1,000 community-based child protection groups in about 30 countries.

3. National Council of Women of Canada

(Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) was founded on 27 October 1893, at a public meeting in Toronto, Canada, chaired by the wife of the Governor-General of Canada and attended by 1,500 women. A coat of arms was granted to the Council in 1993 as part of its centennial celebrations. The Council was designated by the Government of Canada as being of historical significance for its role in the history of Canadian women. In August 2005, Parks Canada and the Historical Site and Monuments Board of Canada installed a National Historic Site commemorative plaque in the Allen Gardens, in Toronto, Canada, where the founding meeting of the Council was held on 27 October 1893. The Council is a member of the International Council of Women, which represents the National Councils of Women in more than 70 countries, and of the Regional Council of the Americas, which represents National Councils of Women in the Western Hemisphere. The International Council of Women, of which NCWC is a member, has had general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1947.

The National Council of Women of Canada has met formally with the members of the Government of Canada since 1924. It is an advocacy organization, which expresses the concerns of the federate members, generally expressing the issues of many Canadian women. Meetings take place between members of Parliament or senior Government officials and members of the Board of Directors of the Council. An annual briefing is prepared, based on approved resolutions, and presented to Government and members of the opposition parties. Policies are developed through a grass-roots process of consultation and debate. Many of these policies have an international scope, supporting human rights, as well as economic and environmental concerns.

During the period 2005 to 2008, one new provincial council has been organized. Several federate members have been lost because Government funding for these groups has ceased or diminished. For example, the National Association of Women and the Law and the Court Challenges Program were both cut in the Federal budget announced in November 2006. Financial challenges continue for NCWC as there are few sources of outside funding. As a national organization, there are costs for communication and travel, although much more is now done by conference calls and e-mail. The Council is working towards being self-sustaining, but that is difficult because of the costs of offices and some administration support. The work of NCWC is done by volunteers.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In 2005, NCWC advocated for an increase in Canada's financial contribution to the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS. The Council also spoke to the Government of Canada about the sexual exploitation of temporary workers in the adult entertainment industry and support for victims of trafficking. In 2008, NCWC urged Canada to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also urged Canada to participate in the process to prepare an international agreement on the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of cluster bombs, to support an instrument that is strong, clear and easy to implement and to conclude and sign up to a treaty to prohibit cluster munitions.

The Council attended the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, as an NGO with special consultative status in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Reports on the meetings of the Commission are brought back to the membership and widely shared across Canada. They are posted on the Council's website. The impact for the United Nations is one of sharing information with the many other NGO delegates from around the world, influencing the Canadian delegation and Permanent Mission by NCWC in the drafting of outcome documents, and the education of NCWC about the work of the United Nations.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field

There is limited involvement, or opportunity to be involved, with specialized United Nations bodies or specialized agencies. The Council has followed closely the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign, and has signed on in support for a stronger role for staffing and resourcing the United Nations and its work for women. Communications were received from different organizations, such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). The International Section of the NCWC website provides links to a number of United Nations agencies and organizations.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals, agreed in 2001, continued to be a focus for the Council, whose role in supporting the Goals has been mainly through advocacy and educating the members and the general public on the need to work hard to address the Goals, and supporting development resources through the Canadian International Development Agency, particularly resources targeted to women.

The Council began work on a major project with the NCWC Education Fund, which relates to Goal 7. This major project looks at the relationship between energy and water. Newsletters have been produced, and fact sheets on a number of relevant

topics are available online. The approach of NCWC takes both an education and a research aspect. The focus is to support the goal of environmental sustainability with members of the Council, informing them by way of newsletters, speakers and regular e-mail notices. The website is also used to provide information to members and the wider public.

4. Nonviolence International

(Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Nonviolence International was founded in 1989 with the intention of providing assistance to individuals, organizations and Governments seeking non-violent means to bring about social and political change. The organization envisions strengthening people's capacity to use the power of non-violence as a means to bring about change that reflects the truth, justice and the desire for human development on personal, social, economic and political levels. Nonviolence International believes that every culture and religious tradition in the world contains the seeds of truth and non-violence, and it encourages activists of different traditions to seek non-violent solutions that respect their cultural identities.

In order to act on this philosophy, Nonviolence International provides general educational materials on non-violence from all traditions, as well as strategy sessions and training for activists and organizers through the coordination of teams of international experts. Nonviolence International sponsors local, national and international conferences and seminars, and offers training programmes on non-violent methods. Nonviolence International provides a core group of international non-violent action specialists to groups or Governments seeking alternative possibilities for peace. Nonviolence International cooperates with other non-violence, peace and conflict resolution organizations internationally in order to work together towards a common goal. The organization prints and disseminates articles, newsletters and position papers on non-violence and provides public education through speakers and the media.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

United Nations Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, July 2005). A representative of Nonviolence International attended and lobbied for the adoption of an arms trade treaty and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) platform. Nonviolence International prepared, published and made available at the meeting a critique of annual reports by Asian States to the United Nations Programme of Action. At the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action in 2006, and the United Nations Third Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in 2008, the representative of Nonviolence International again lobbied for the adoption of an arms trade treaty and the IANSA platform.

Representatives of Nonviolence International attended the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The representatives lobbied States for better compliance with various obligations of the Convention, especially regarding

interpretations of articles 1, 2 and 3, and lobbied non-States parties observers at the Meetings to join the Convention. The representatives attended several regional preparatory meetings prior to the Meetings of the States Parties.

Representatives of Nonviolence International attended the second session of the Human Rights Council and lobbied States to adopt and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Nonviolence International also attended the third to ninth sessions of the Council (Geneva, 2006-2008).

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the reporting period, Nonviolence International cooperated with and responded to requests for consultations with United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (consultation on peace education), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Nonviolence International provided a resource person at workshops organized by UNESCO on peace education and post-conflict reconstruction), the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat (consultation on international demobilization, disarmament and reintegration standards) and the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (consultation on conflict driven displacement).

Nonviolence International does not have direct programmes contributing to the alleviation of poverty; however, its activities to reduce the harm caused by armed conflict, in particular related to landmines and small arms, is a prerequisite for sustainable development in conflict-affected areas.

5. Rural Reconstruction Nepal

(Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) is a Nepali non-government organization (NGO) with development programmes in various subsectors such as health, awareness, education, self-government, livelihood, food security, peace, conflict and policy advocacy. RRN, since its inception, has been working with the poor and marginalized people in rural Nepal to help them in the process of meeting their basic human rights and humanitarian needs, improving livelihoods and building institutions. Currently, RRN hosts the regional secretariat of the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), a regional network of civil society organizations and individuals in South Asia; and the international secretariat of LDC Watch, the international network of civil society organizations based in the least developed countries. These are two, among others, of civil society alliances with which RRN is associated to fight against poverty and for the realization of human rights, democracy and peace. The organization envisions a world where there is justice, equality, peace and prosperity for all citizens. It has a mission to create an enabling environment for building a just, equitable, peaceful and prosperous society through social, economic and political empowerment of the rural people. RRN intends to move closer to its vision through achieving the following objectives: enhancing the socio-economic status of the indigent, oppressed and marginalized poor and vulnerable groups; promoting action-oriented research initiatives for problem-solving and information generation; and contributing to the enhancement of an inclusive system for policy and governance.

The organization has expanded its range of operation in South Asia and the least developed countries of the world by expanding and strengthening its network base with different regional and international civil society organizations, working at the international level. Furthermore, its roles in terms of advocacy and campaigning have been strengthened.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Representatives of RRN and Least Developed Countries Watch participated in a roundtable on "Financing for development in the least developed countries: Trends and Prospects" in November 2008 in New York, which brought together the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Non-Governmental Liaison Service, the Economic and Social Council, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Government representatives and potential donor countries. With support from RRN (its international secretariat) LDC Watch

had released a statement at the Economic and Social Council NGO Forum on the theme "The role of civil society in promoting sustainable development and the new international aid architecture". The Forum was held at United Nations Headquarters in April 2008. It firmly articulated for an enhanced participatory role of civil society in least developed countries towards ensuring the effectiveness of international aid vis-à-vis national development agendas and processes in their own countries. The President of RRN attended the event while representing LDC Watch as Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in a dialogue between civil society organizations and the Working Party on follow-up to the Paris Declaration, organized by OECD in Paris in April 2008. The Working Party is an international partnership hosted by the Development Assistance Committee of OECD. The President of RRN and International Coordinator of LDC Watch participated in a hearing with civil society and the private sector convened as part of the Preparatory Committee for the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII). The President raised the issues of poverty and aid and trade issues confronting the least developed countries. Similarly, the President had participated in the Cairo high-level symposium in January 2008, which was jointly organized by the Government of Egypt and the Economic and Social Council to facilitate the engagement of stakeholders in the preparations for the 2008 biennial Development Cooperation Forum held as a part of the Economic and Social Council high-level segment in July 2008. The theme of the meeting was "Trends in development cooperation: South-South and triangular cooperation and aid effectiveness".

In December 2007, the President visited New York and Geneva to lobby and network with relevant United Nations organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNCTAD, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. In November 2007, at the Commonwealth People's Space in Kampala, RRN/LDC Watch voiced for the fulfilment of the commitments made by the international community in the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In collaboration with UNCTAD and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, RRN/Least Developed Countries Watch organized a round table on the Brussels Programme of Action and least developed countries development on the sidelines of UNCTAD XII in Accra. The main theme of the round table was "Addressing the least developed countries issues of globalization for sustainable development". As a coordinator for monitoring the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Nepal under a coalition in the Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee, RRN prepared and presented a shadow report to the thirty-eighth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2007 in Geneva.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Nepal. Major actions undertaken were as follows:

Goal 1: Construction of irrigation facilities (265 occurrences) to increase agricultural production; distributed food and non-food items to the survivors of natural disasters (1,437 families); provided food and cash for work to poor households in the project area (740 families); provided vocational and entrepreneurship development training (175 individuals); undertook awareness-raising, campaign and advocacy work on ensuring the right to food of the poor in Nepal and other least developed countries.

Goal 2: Rehabilitation of school buildings, classrooms and playgrounds (646 units); supported children with books, school uniforms and stationery (2,775 individuals).

Goal 3: Facilitation to organize 250 grass-roots women's groups comprising 1,250 members; training on gender and social inclusion (45 members of the groups); created a gender thematic group dedicated to the issues of gender and women in South Asia; prepared and distributed information, education and communications materials on gender roles and women's status in South Asia (1,000 posters, 1,000 booklets and 1,500 desk calendars).

Goal 5: Provided support for women suffering from uterine and vaginal prolapses (55 women).

Goal 7: Provided environmental sanitation education (3,450 people); implemented farmers field school programme as integrated pest management approach for ensuring environmental sustainability (64 schools attended by 1,600 farmers).

Goal 8: RRN is actively engaged in lobbying funding partners to adhere to their commitments and allocate at least 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to the developing countries and/or 0.15 per cent of their GNI to the least developed countries.

D. Activities in support of global principles

The organization observed International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, World Food Day and Human Rights Day every year covered by the present report.

6. Unitarian Universalist Association

(Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The aim of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) United Nations Office is to foster sustainable development as a means to achieve peace, security and human rights. The current programme focus is to educate, advocate and actively work towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

One significant change that has taken place at the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office was the hiring of a new Executive Director in 2008.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association contributes to the development aims of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations through the work of its United Nations Office located in New York. The Association is a faith-based non-governmental organization (NGO), operating in the United Nations system and in the international community. The United Nations Office acts both as a voice for the religious denomination of Unitarian Universalists in the United Nations and as a venue for education, advocacy and outreach on United Nations-related issues. The mission of the organization is to promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The Association served on the following committees: NGO Committee on Disarmament, NGO Human Rights Committee, NGO Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Association has partnered with other NGOs to support United Nations peacekeeping operations in Darfur, the Sudan, and around the world. It has worked with others to lobby all the diplomatic missions of the members of the United Nations Security Council to ensure that the United Nations peacekeeping operation to end genocide in Darfur is adequately mandated and equipped. The Association is vigilant and active in looking for ways to implement the principles of its faith at the United Nations and around the world. To expand interaction between Unitarian Universalists and the United Nations, the Association established an internship programme in 2001, engaging college and graduate students in research on world issues. By directing talented youth into the United Nations and related careers, the Association's United Nations Office enhances the work of the United Nations and

its agencies. Since 1962, the Association has hosted annual intergenerational spring seminars on timely United Nations topics, often featuring a United Nations official as keynote speaker. Participants prepare a statement of principle to be delivered to the United Nations Secretary-General and shared with all Association members.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In 2005, the United Nations Millennium Project released the report "Investing in Development", outlining a practical strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. A practical recommendation of the report is that developed countries needed to fulfil their commitment to deliver 0.7 per cent of gross national product in development assistance. That year, the Association participated in the World Youth Congress in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly five years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration where world leaders discussed the findings of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and the Millennium Project, and set out an implementation agenda for reform of international security and development cooperation. The Association's United Nations Office launched the "Every Child is Our Child" Programme on 15 September, mobilizing Unitarian Universalist congregations and individuals to put faith into action by direct participation in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. In consultation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and in on-site discussion and partnership agreement with the Queen Mothers Association of the Manya Krobo District in eastern Ghana, the Association sends AIDS orphans to primary school, benefiting as many as 1,400 children, on a two to one ratio of girls to boys. In September 2005, the Association launched a project in support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to help mothers of newborn children among North American indigenous people. In April 2005, a seminar on HIV/AIDS featured an Islamic Scholar of Theology and Ethics from Uni a Seminar and Xavier University, Cincinnati, as the keynote speaker.

In 2006, the Association's internship programme provided high school seniors and college students, both graduate and post-graduate students, direct work experience at the United Nations and the opportunity to learn skills in international affairs and global perspectives. In April 2006, the annual intergenerational seminar focused on "People, poverty and power".

In 2007, the Association continued its advocacy to support United Nations initiatives to end fighting in the Sudan. It partnered with the Save Darfur Coalition to protect all civilians, especially women and children, from the civil conflict in Darfur. In partnership with the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations, the Association's United Nations Office hosted an intergenerational seminar in April on the issue of human trafficking. The Association worked with the NGO Committee on Disarmament to support the United Nations effort to achieve global nuclear disarmament and to achieve drastic reductions in the manufacture and sale of small arms. At the end of 2007, the Association hired a new Executive Director and stood ready to take on a much more activist role in promoting peace and justice at the United Nations.

In 2008, the new Executive Director took on a key role in planning for the Department of Public Information NGO Conference in Paris, on human rights. The

Association was assigned the roles of conference caucus coordinator, workshop leader and joint moderator of a breakout session. The Association partnered with the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations to host its largest intergenerational spring seminar to date, devoted to the discussion of building a culture of peace. The Association strongly advocated that the United States of America and all Governments should pay their United Nations dues and peacekeeping assessments on time, in full and without condition.

D. Activities in support of global principles

The Association is represented at the United Nations by the United Nations Office, headed by its Executive Director. During the period 2005 to 2008, the Office participated in policy formation through its participation in various working groups. Through its work with young people, it has directed talented young people into careers working with the United Nations, its agencies and related NGOs. The Association is dedicated to the Millennium Development Goals and has made practical contributions helping indigenous people in North America and HIV/AIDS orphans in Africa; both projects have been praised as examples of bottom-up human development which respects the beneficiaries and makes them part of project planning and implementation. This expertise in respectful humanitarian assistance has been utilized and praised by United Nations organizations in Ghana and elsewhere.